

ALBERTA

The Task Force On Urbanization And The Future

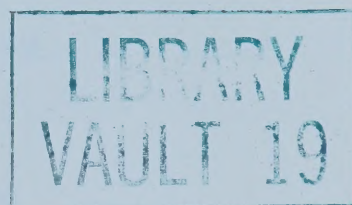
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Progress Report

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

March 1974

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Progress Report

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

The term of operation of the Task Force has been extended from March 31, 1974 to March 31, 1975 by Order in Council 257/74. The Board of the Task Force had suggested the extension so that all work underway could be completed and that responsibility for projects requiring continual updating could be assigned to specific agencies. A review of the possible future role of the Task Force will be undertaken in the coming year.

The work now underway includes specific studies being carried out by Research Officers hired by the Task Force, studies undertaken jointly with other agencies, projects carried out by other agencies with grants from the Task Force, and publishing of existing studies which are of relevance and value to urban and regional planning and development.

Task Force Studies

1. Coordination of Land-Related Information Systems in Alberta

The Task Force, at the request of the cities, regional planning commissions and provincial departments, has undertaken this study aimed at the coordination of land-related information systems in Alberta.

The principal research officer is Mr. E.J. Tessari, who is assisted by an advisory committee consisting of

Mr. R.A. Gehmlich - Acting Assistant Provincial Auditor
Mr. C.W. Youngs - Director of Surveys
Mr. F. Marlyn - Director of Task Force.

The study has utilized information obtained by interviews from concerned groups and from a detailed questionnaire which has been circulated to over 100 agencies. An extensive review of literature on the subject, in Canada and abroad, has been undertaken in conjunction with the study.

The report on the study is being published in three parts:

- PART I - Land Use Classification and Coding
- PART II - Location Identifiers
- PART III - Nature and Requirements for Land-Related Information in Alberta.

PART I of the study has been published and distributed, PART II and PART III are expected to be completed within approximately one month.

Comments on the first report have been received from the major agencies concerned and a first meeting to finalize the report has been held. There has been a general acceptance of the ten basic recommendations (see Appendix I), which is a prerequisite for any detailed agreements.

On the question of the suggested land use classification code (for cities, regional agencies and provincial departments), although revisions will be required it would appear that agreement can be reached among the interests involved.

The study has received the fullest cooperation at all levels, and there has been a common feeling of urgency in resolving the matter. Both the costs involved in establishing these many and various land use information systems, and their efficiency and usefulness, depends in part on the kind of agreements which can be reached on the reports resulting from this study.

2. Inventory of Urban and Regional Studies in the Province of Alberta 1950 - 1973

The inventory includes all urban and regional research and planning studies relating to Alberta undertaken from 1950 - 1973. To date three volumes have been completed. Volume 1 includes all cities other than Edmonton and Calgary, the seven regional planning commissions, and the universities (Master and Doctor theses). Volume 2 lists work by the City of Edmonton and Calgary. Volume 3 lists work by private consultants. Volume 4, which is now in preparation, will cover work done by Provincial Government departments and agencies and should be completed by the end of May. A fifth volume will list studies and research undertaken by Federal departments and agencies. In addition to the listings, detailed information has been prepared on each study or research project, which includes a summary of content, availability, and person to contact. The listings have been distributed to all agencies and individuals engaged in urban and regional research, libraries, and universities in Alberta, and to select agencies in other provinces. The research officer preparing the inventory is Linda DeGrandis.

3. Economic and Social Statistics for Municipalities

A wide range of frequently used statistics for smaller statistical areas and municipalities are not available from a single source, and compilation of these statistics over time also presents difficulties. The purpose of this study is to compile and publish such material for each municipality in the Province; some 45 different categories of information will be covered under 7 major headings (see Appendix II).

All the basic information has now been collected and a sample format is being completed. The work remaining to be done is the preparation of the tables for each municipal unit. The research officer for this study is Benjamin Fanta.

These three studies undertaken by the Task Force basically deal with upgrading and improving our information base for policy research, planning and decision making. They also aim at improving the ease of access to information and a better use of information through greater coordination of effort.

Studies Undertaken Jointly with other Agencies

1. Municipal Services Study - Lethbridge Area

This study is being jointly undertaken by the City of Lethbridge, the County of Lethbridge, the Town of Coaldale and Picture Butte, the Village of Nobleford, and the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission.

The services being considered are Ambulance, Fire Protection, Solid Waste Disposal, and Libraries. The study is examining level of service, costs, administrative arrangements, and alternate arrangements at either a municipal, inter-municipal or regional level.

The Task Force is providing a portion of the study costs, and Task Force staff is assisting in some areas of the study. The research officer is Susan Edmundson, the consultant is Mr. A.W. Morrison. The date of completion has been set for October 1974.

2. Regional Resources Project #1 (Drumheller Area)

This project has been in operation since September 1972. As a result of an independant evaluation carried out by Scace and Associates on the effectiveness of the Project, both the Task Force and the participating municipalities extended financial contributions for an additional year.

The objective of the endeavour was community and economic development, and involved the provision of information and technical assistance to the eleven municipalities involved.¹

The project is administered by the Municipalities and the technical advisor is Hugh Bodmer, with offices in Carbon. The Task Force staff provides some research and liaison assistance to the project with provincial departments and agencies.

A major aspect of the project has been the establishing of local development companies by the communities. These agencies have, to date, been active in the fields of single family and senior citizen housing, in one case in a shopping centre project, in another in the provision of necessary medical office space for a new resident doctor. They are meeting needs which, up to the point of their establishment, were not being adequately met.

A second area of activity has been in the area of water supply, which is a common problem in the area. The activities have been directed to meet both immediate situations and in longer term perspective, the Department of the Environment has completed an in-depth water supply and drainage study for each community. The report is now under consideration.

¹The Villages of Standard, Acme, Carbon, Rockyford, and Hussar; the Towns of Trochu and Bassano; the Municipal District of Starland and Kneehill, and Improvement District No. 7 which includes the Hamlets of Wyane, East Coulee, Rosedale and Nacmine.

In terms of economic development activities, a major project has been the establishment of a seed clearing plant Co-op in Hussar and the finalization of construction arrangements.

In the past six months a number of new businesses have located in these communities: a furniture store, a body shop, hobby shop, cabinet and furniture manufacturing concern, self serve shopping centre, tire shop, and electrician shop. Meetings are being held at S.A.I.T. with the graduating classes of plumbers, electricians, and mechanics, to make graduates aware of business and employment opportunities available in Project communities.

A recent development has been the selection of four towns in the Project area by the Devonian Foundation for financial assistance through their Main Street Alberta program. The Foundation will provide two thirds of the funds if the towns provide one third for any projects of a nature to improve the quality of life in smaller Alberta Communities. Eight towns in Alberta have initially been selected. The towns selected are now in the process of deciding on the projects to be undertaken.

Grants for Research

1. Case Studies of New Industries in Small Towns

A grant has been provided by the Task Force to the Department of Geography of the University of Lethbridge. The Project Director is Frank Jankunis and Research Associate is Thomas Menard.

Case studies of new industries in eight of the smaller communities in southern Alberta will be prepared (see Appendix III).

The project is founded on the investigation by Mr. Jankunis of recent business and industrial developments that have been established in several small communities in southern Alberta. These enterprises depart from the traditional and expected developments such as farm supply business, service stations, lumber yards etc. They do not follow the usual development pattern nor fit standard development models or theories.

Determining the rational of their location may prove of value to other smaller communities undertaking industrial development projects, and may prove of value to government in evaluating whether their programs are of assistance to these viable activities. The study will take approximately four months to complete.

Grants for Publication of Research

1. Residential Areas in Transition

A grant has been provided by the Task Force to cover printing costs of a summary of Mr. L. McCann's Ph.D. thesis. The study examines the changes in the stock of Edmonton's housing, additions, removals, conversions over many years. It has involved, by the use of computer, tracing the history of some 90,000 properties. It provides some insight into the growing, aging and changing process in our major cities.

A section of the study will discuss the implications of the research in terms of housing and planning policy.

Advisory Activities

The Director of the Task Force is serving on the advisory committees of a number of major studies now underway in Alberta, and in some instances Task Force staff have provided some research assistance. These studies include the Edmonton Regional Growth Study, the Calgary Regional Growth Study, the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor Study, the City of Calgary Urban Evaluation Study, the City of Edmonton Transportation Economic and Fiscal Research Project, and the Land Use Forum.

Staff Changes

The Task Force has been informed by Mr. Rumball, who has been the Research Officer for the past two years, of his plans to leave the Task Force on March 31, 1974.

Ms. Linda DeGrandis, who has had the full responsibility for the Research Index, has been named as the new Research Officer.

Task Force on Urbanization and the Future

BOARD MEMBERS

The Honourable D.J. Russell, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Chairman)

The Honourable D. Getty, Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

His Worship I.G. Dent, Mayor of the City of Edmonton

His Worship J.R.W. Sykes, Mayor of the City of Calgary

His Worship R.P. Swanson, Mayor of the City of Camrose

His Worship R.E. Barrett, Mayor of the City of Red Deer

STAFF

Frank Marlyn, Director

Linda DeGrandis, Research Officer

Valerie Edwards, Secretary

APPENDIX I

Conclusions and Recommendations from
PART I - LAND USE CLASSIFICATION AND CODING

1. To provide flexibility in information use, the land use, economic activity, occupancy ownership and other coded characteristics must be retrievable individually for each establishment on a property. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that a clear separation be maintained within the coding systems between the several characteristics or dimensions of land which include
 - a) Land Use (physical aspects)
 - b) Ownership
 - c) Occupancy
 - d) Economic Activity
 - e) Tax and Assessment Considerations.
2. Requirements for detail are not consistent over the Province, with many agencies requiring a rather low level and some quite high level of detail. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that initial efforts to standardize land use classification should involve moderate detail, consistent with the 3-digit level of detail as discussed later in this report.
3. A classification system for coding economic activity, the Standard Industrial Classification (S.I.C.) is in use nationally and undergoes periodic review and amendments as industrial changes dictate. There would seem to be little value in developing an economic activity classification system independently of the S.I.C. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that Statistics Canada, Standard Industrial Classification be used to code economic activity.
4. Utilization of separate classification codes for recording ancillary or secondary land usage and multi-use of land, causes significant increase in the total code numbers on which agreement for standardization is required and restricts the uses to which such coded information might be put. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that the method of application of the coding system be such that ancillary or secondary land usage and multi-use of land are coded through use of the standard codes, as for primary or singular land use.
5. Consensus nationally on land use and related classification systems for multi-lateral adoption is not likely to occur for a number of years, while several agencies in Alberta are in the position of having to proceed with systematic compilation of data under an organized classification system. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that efforts toward developing standardized land use and related classification systems provincially be proceeded with.

Recommendations Requiring On-going Work:

6. The Province of Ontario is making marked progress toward the completion and release of a report on Land Use Classification and Coding. Further, it would be in both the provincial and national interest to develop a standardized system for national adoption. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that close liaison be maintained with the Province of Ontario, and other agencies pursuing the development of Land Use Classification systems in Canada, with the object of arriving at systems suitable for national adoption.
7. Uniform application of the systems proposed in this report require consistency in the interpretation of terms to which codes are assigned. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that, following review of this report and any necessary revisions to the proposed systems, definitions of the said terms and rules for code application be prepared and made available.
8. Utility of a classification system depends in large measure on the ease with which it can be applied by the user. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that an alphabetic listing of coded terms be prepared to correlate the terms with assigned code numbers, following review of this report and any necessary revisions to the proposed systems.
9. If land use activity information is recorded under too general or non-detailed a coding system the number of possible uses of the recorded data is reduced. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that further work be carried out with the objective of developing more refined, 4-digit, land use codes in those categories where needs have been demonstrated.
10. There is much diversity of function among the numerous agencies concerned with land use and related data in Alberta. These same agencies experience constant change in their information requirements. Therefore it is RECOMMENDED that a central agency be assigned the task of coordinating on a provincial scale the classification and coding of land-related data.

APPENDIX II

Socio-Economic Information Compendium Content

The following list represents the data to be initially included in the Compendium. A sample format (for Lacombe) will be available by the beginning of April:

Section I: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. Population
2. Age/Sex Distribution
- *3. Vital Statistics
- *4. Health and Hospitalization
 - 4a. Hospital Facilities
 - 4b. Hospital Service Area
 - 4c. Distribution of Patients From the Community
 - 4d. Total Case Load, and Hospitalization by Incidence of Specific Diseases/Illnesses
5. Educational Facilities and Levels
 - 5a. Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary Institutions
 - 5b. Education Attainment
6. Marital Status
7. Ethnic Composition
8. Mother Tongue and Language Spoken at Home
9. Population Origin and Movement
 - 9a. Birthplace
 - 9b. Period of Immigration
 - 9c. Migration Status
10. Families
 - 10a. Number of Persons
 - 10b. Income of Families, Family Heads, and Non-Family Persons
 - 10c. Occupation of Family Heads, and Non-Family Persons
 - 10d. Marital Status/Sex of Family Heads
11. Households

Section II: HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

1. Housing Stock
2. Housing Facilities
- *3. Building Permits
- *4. Multi-Unit Dwellings Vacancy Survey
- *5. Land Assembly and Land Development Survey(s)
- *6. Residential Dwellings Construction - Starts and Completions (by units and value)
- *7. N.H.A. Mortgaging Statistics

Section III: MUNICIPAL FINANCES

- *1. Valuation and Taxation
 - 1a. Assessment and Mill Rate
 - 1b. Taxable Assessment Breakdown for Lands and Buildings
- *2. General Fund
 - 2a. Statement of Revenue
 - 2b. Statement of Expenditure
- *3. Contributions, Grants and Subsidies
- *4. Expenditure for General Fixed Assets
- *5. Long Term Debt Structure

Section IV: ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- *1. Income, and Taxable Income (Total/Average)
- *2. Provincial (Public Service Commission) Employment by agency, number, and total salary
- *3. Retail, Service, and Wholesale Survey by S.I.C. groupings, establishments, employment, salaries, and value of sales
- *4. Manufacturing Survey (as per Item #3)
- 5. Labour Force
 - 5a. By Industrial Sector (e.g. Manufacturing), Major Groups (e.g. Food and Beverage Section), and Occupation (e.g. Clerical)
 - 5b. By Wage and Salary Employment Income
 - 5c. By Age
 - 5d. By Sex
 - 5e. By Marital Status
 - 5f. By Level of Schooling

Section V: MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Section VI: POST OFFICE, AND LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD SALES AND REVENUES

Section VII: FIRE DESTRUCTION AND DEATH RATES

All variables so designated() will be given annually, in a time series generally backdated to 1961, and in no instance further than 1951. Most of the other variables will be given for the (census) years 1961, 1966, 1971, etc.

APPENDIX III

List of enterprises to be examined in the
CASE STUDIES OF NEW INDUSTRIES IN SMALL TOWNS

PLACE	ENTERPRISE	NOTES
Barons	Hydroponics Plant	Tomatoe growing factory in a declining community
Spring Coulee	Chief Mountain Industries	Small factory, initially built all terrain vehicles, now concentrating on medical examination tables
Welling	Centra-flo Manu. Co. Ltd.	Built in vacuum cleaning systems
Bow Island	Bow Island Commentator	New district newspaper and printing service for a region losing rural population
Milk River	Sunland Theatre Fort Family Restaurant	Two new businesses in a town that has been losing population but now seems stabilized
Nobleford	Construction Company Nobleford Market	Growing firm in rural area. Recently purchased after many difficulties in effecting sale
Claresholm	Flying Chuck wagon Inn	Successful restaurant relocated adjacent to growing community
Cardston	Custom Outdoor Clothing and Equipment	Located in Cardston for no economic reasons personal factors involved

